

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-11 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claim 3 has been included in claim 1. Accordingly, the present invention is now directed to a snaffle bit in which the bow shape of the mouthpiece is located on a plane extending approximately perpendicular to the through-openings.

With respect to the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the Examiner will note that claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scherling, are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is clearly not anticipated by the reference to Scherling.

Particularly the feature according to which the mouthpiece has the shape of an outward-curved bow, which clearly refers to a stiff or stable configuration of the mouthpiece inside and outside of the

mouth of a horse, cannot be found in Scherling. It is precisely this stiff or stable configuration of the bow-shaped mouthpiece which distinguishes the snaffle bit according to the present invention over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that an outwardly curved bow-shaped mouthpiece is clearly not equivalent to a mouthpiece which is composed of a plurality of components which are linked together like a chain.

It is the configuration of the mouthpiece of a snaffle bit which is the deciding factor for the wellbeing of a horse. Clearly, a stable mouthpiece, on the one hand, and a mouthpiece which is not stable and whose shape changes continuously as a result of its configuration, cannot provide the same feeling to a horse or work animal.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention as claimed is patentably distinct over the art of record.

While the reference to Scherling describes and illustrates a bow-shaped mouthpiece, it is clear from the configuration of this mouthpiece that the shape of the mouthpiece will change during use as a result of the articulated connections between the individual

members of the mouthpiece.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended to set forth the fact that the mouthpiece consists of two parts. This embodiment is illustrated in the drawing.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,  
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